

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)
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Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #22
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EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #22

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of September 9, 2017 at 1830 ET

Overview: Hurricane Harvey made landfall at 2300 ET, August 26, as a Category 4 storm near Rockport. Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1 Harvey and stalled over southeastern TX. Response efforts associated with Hurricane Harvey continue. River and bayous will continue to fall below major flood stage, but long-duration flooding will affect response activities.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: FEMA has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and deployed National and several regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs). FEMA's Region 6 RRCC is also at Level 1.

EPA expects to receive an amended mission assignment today providing about \$1.5 million additional funding to continue response operations. FEMA has announced plans to fund mission assignments in five day increments.

EPA Actions:

Air Monitoring

EPA deployed four air quality technical specialists to Houston to conduct surveillance in the Manchester area to evaluate recent reports of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and benzene detections. During the morning of September 9, the four specialists monitored downwind of the Lyondell-Basel and Pasadena refineries using handheld monitors and FLIR cameras. No detections above levels of concern were reported. This afternoon, they plan to monitor around the Magellan Terminal complex. These activities are being coordinated with TCEQ.

The TAGA repairs were completed today and the instrument is being brought back on line.

Operations will resume in the morning.

Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments

EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water and wastewater system assessments. Ten EPA personnel are conducting drinking water assessments in the Houston Branch, five personnel are conducting wastewater assessments in the Houston Branch and one person is conducting drinking water assessments in the Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch.

TCEQ and EPA have completed surveys of 4,969 drinking water facilities and 3,017 wastewater facilities in the impacted area.

Debris Recovery

The Dallas REOC has been staffed with a Debris Management Technical Expert who participates as a member of the FEMA Debris Task Force.

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

EPA Laboratory/Analytical Services

EPA's Houston laboratory reopened on September 7.

Waivers

EPA continues to receive and approve, as appropriate, fuel waiver requests. EPA has extended the current multi-state fuel waiver to September 26.

The Texas Department of Agriculture signed pesticide applicator certification waivers on September 8, 2017 for Department of Defense (DOD) certified applicators that will be conducting aerial applications as soon as the evening of September 9, 2017. The Texas Department of State Health Services has begun aerial mosquito control and requested additional mosquito control assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Aerial insecticide spraying began over Refugio and Bee counties September 7, 2017 from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

EPA has recommended the State request that local jurisdictions approved for burning notify the public when burning is conducted. Today, EPA by letter concurred State of Texas use of its emergency hurricane debris management guidance. TCEQ has the authority to waive certain requirements to allow open burning of woody debris from Hurricane Harvey aftermath. The State can approve open burning of debris, consistent with guidance provided by the TCEQ.

DFW-based Fruit of the Earth produces a product that has a combined EPA registration in both sunscreen and insect repellent, that is currently under a stop sale order by EPA. Because of the combined registration the EPA will not allow sale or donation of the product at this time. The company has stated that it would like to donate approximately 200,000 units for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts but is unable to do so because of the EPA. EPA is evaluating the status of the company's FIFRA application and also whether some type of emergency exemption may be warranted.

EPA has received notifications of force majeure from 17 companies covering Louisiana/Texas gulf facilities that impending storms may cause a delay or impediment to performance in

complying with provisions of their Consent Decrees.

Superfund NPL Sites

EPA has determined that 41 of 43 Superfund sites in the area do not show damage or excessive flooding associated with Harvey and two sites are still in need of site inspection. EPA determined that two more sites (San Jacinto River Waste Pits and US Oil Recovery) required further inspection.

- U.S. Oil Recovery Update: On September 7, 2017, a total of 16 vacuum truckloads of water (approximately 80,000 gallons) were removed and shipped off-site for disposal. The potentially responsible party continues operating pumping equipment and a storage tank to maintain and control overflow. Sampling of the lift station water continues. In addition, soil and ground water samples were collected on September 8, 2017. No sheen or odor was observed in the overflowing water.
- San Jacinto Waste Pits Update: Cap repairs and underwater cap surveying continues at the San Jacinto Superfund Site. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling of sediment and surface water was completed on September 7, 2017.

EPA directed potentially responsible parties or independently started collecting samples at 34 Texas Superfund Sites to confirm no releases due to storm impacts. Two EPA field teams arrived on September 8, 2017, and will be joined by three additional field teams on September 11, 2017. Sampling has been completed at 11 sites. The sampling is part of a longer-term assessment that will be used to transition sites to their normal cleanup operations. Sampling will be complete by September 13, 2017, with preliminary unvalidated results expected by September 16, 2017.

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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